

Judge John R. Ruhl

Judge Ruhl joined the King County Superior Court bench on April 1, 2014. He was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee and assumed the position previously occupied by Judge Jay White, who had retired from the bench earlier that year.

Judge Ruhl graduated from Seattle University with a Bachelor's Degree in History and Journalism in 1974. He worked as a newspaper reporter for a year and then attended law school at the University of Notre Dame, graduating in 1978.

Following law school, Judge Ruhl worked as a co-clerk for Judge Edward Reed at Division II of the Washington State Court of Appeals. He then entered private practice in Seattle and built his business and commercial trial practice representing clients primarily in the transportation and financial services industries.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Ruhl headed the Transportation Law Group at Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland, PLLC, in Seattle. He also served as the first non-banker president of the Risk Management Association, Puget Sound Chapter (2012-2013).

Judge Ruhl is a past president of the King County Bar Association (2006-2007) and also served as the founding president (1986-1988) and a board member (1986-2012) of the King County Dispute Resolution Center, which trains and provides volunteer mediators for community-based mediation services throughout King County, as well as for the Small Claims calendars in the King County District Courts. In 2006, as King County Bar Association president, Judge Ruhl led the effort to establish and fund Washington's online judicial voters' guide, VotingforJudges.org.